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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA VA 22314 (703) 838-1700

TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN DECEMBER

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 6.9 points in December, 1985, from November, 1985 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 133.2(p) with 1967 = 100, the December tonnage is 4.9 percent below November's 140.1(r). The current month's volume is 11.1 points (7.7 percent) below the tonnage level in December, 1984.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey decreased from 4.19 million tons in November to 3.95 million tons in December, 1985. Actual tons decreased 5.6%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the December index level to 133.2(p).

From November to December, 1985, Industrial Production increased 0.7% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decrease of 4.9%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for 1985 decreased 4 percent compared to the same period in 1984 for the carriers in the survey.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH DECEMBER, 1985

1967 = 100

	DEC 1985	NOV 1985	OCT 1985	DEC 1984	Monthly % Change 11/85 / 10/85	Monthly % Change 12/85 / 11/85	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	133.2p	140.1r	139.3f	144.3f	+0.6	-4.9	-7.7
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	123.5p	130.9r	148.3f	131.5f	-11.7	-5.7	-6.1
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	126.0	125.1	124.6	123.3	+0.4	+0.7	+2.2
Manufacturers (total)	129.0	128.0	127.1	125.8	+0.7	+0.8	+2.5
Non-durable	127.6	126.4	126.1	123.8	+0.2	+0.9	+3.1
Durable	130.0	129.2	127.8	127.4	+1.1	+0.6	+2.0
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	482.8	473.6	469.2	452.7	+0.9	+1.9	+6.6
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	297.2	296.7	294.8	292.0	+0.6	+0.2	+1.8
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	327.4	326.6	325.5	315.5	+0.3	+0.2	+3.8
Tonnage Reported by 131 Carriers in Dec., 1985 (000 tons)	3,949	4,185	n.a.	4,030	n.a.	-5.6	-2.0

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services
5 - 1977=100

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
January	164.7	153.2	129.7	127.5	144.4	141.1
February	156.5	152.8	133.0	126.4	140.1	136.5
March	157.9	152.8	130.5	128.9	143.8	138.9
April	151.0	152.9	130.5	130.4	146.0	137.5
May	142.9	153.2	131.1	133.3	143.8	136.4
June	139.0	151.0	131.3	135.5	142.7	133.2
July	134.9	150.2	128.3	150.1	143.9	131.2
August	140.7	146.2	129.5	137.1	145.0	135.2
September	145.0	143.8	128.4	138.4	141.8	135.1
October	147.8	140.6	125.6	139.5	144.7	139.3
November	151.8	136.3	122.4	140.0	147.0	140.1r
December	154.5	131.4	125.6	143.3	144.3	133.2p

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1983	126.5	127.6	128.6	130.9	133.1	139.6	140.9	141.9	138.3	139.3	140.9	142.6
1984	142.6	142.8	143.3	144.5	144.2	143.5	143.9	143.6	143.8	144.5	145.3	144.1
1985	140.6	138.8	137.6	137.6	135.7	133.6	133.2	133.8	136.5	138.2r	137.5p	

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.